

## READ THE REPORT ON MEDICARE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Americans to read a report that was filed by the trustees of the Social Security trust fund and the Medicare trust fund. It is a short report. It is only 14 pages.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is our duty to urge senior citizens and Americans of all ages who care about Medicare for themselves but also for their children and their grandchildren, as we care about it for our parents and our grandparents, that they read this report. They can receive the report. It is 14 pages. It is a 14-page summary of the annual report to the American citizens. They can receive it by calling 202-224-3121. Ask to be connected to your Representative's office. At that number, 202-224-3121, ask for a summary of the annual report of the Medicare trustees.

It is factual. It is nonpoliticized. It is something, frankly, that many Members of the other side of the aisle do not want you to read, but it explains very clearly what is going on with Medicare.

## MEDICARE AND MEDICAID IN FLORIDA

(Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House today about a very serious problem that will occur in my native State, the State of Florida. I am a fifth generation Floridian, and I dearly love my State, but they are confronted with a problem dealing with Medicare.

If the current bill that is proposed is passed, it will be a \$1 billion cut over the next 5 years that will hit my constituents and all senior citizens in Florida. In my congressional district alone, they will be hit over \$50 million.

To compound that, if Medicaid is block granted, we will have a catastrophic fiscal problem in Florida. Medicaid block grant will not even equal inflation. If does not even come close to the increase in growth that this State experiences, between 8 and 12 percent.

I call upon my 13 Republican colleagues from Florida to reconsider their position dealing with Medicare and Medicaid, not for political reasons but for the reason that I think they are devoted to this State as well as I.

## SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hearing a lot these days from the liberal Democrats. They have heard terms "tax cuts from the rich" and "mean spirited," and all the usual class warfare terminology.

But there is something the American people will not hear from the liberal Democrats. The American people will not hear the liberals talk about the report from the President's Medicare trustees. They will not hear quotes from this report saying that "concerted action must be taken promptly to address" the critical problems with Medicare.

There is something else the Democrats will not be talking about.

They will not be talking about the millions of Americans who would be left out in the cold if Medicare were to go bankrupt. They will not talk about the seniors who would be unable to meet their health care needs.

Mr. Speaker, the liberals should acknowledge this report and work with Republicans to save Medicare.

## SUPPORT MEDICARE

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Medicare's 30th anniversary. It was approved by this great legislative body on July 27, 1965.

We sometimes take for granted Medicare and the impact Medicare has had on our seniors. Prior to Medicare, only 46 percent of our seniors had any health insurance. While those over 65 suffered the highest poverty rate, with almost a third living in poverty, today virtually every senior has health insurance. Medicare has been enormously successful in ameliorating the suffering of our seniors while providing them with the dignity of knowing that health care will be there when they need it.

As a freshman, I was somewhat perplexed and surprised by my Republican colleagues' attack on this program without offering real reform. I have recently studied the history of Medicare enactment. President Harry Truman first introduced Medicare legislation in 1952.

For 13 years until its signing in law by President Johnson, Republicans voted overwhelmingly and consistently against Medicare. Republican antipathy on Medicare remains. They continue to try to dismantle this very successful program. This Congress should work to preserve what has been successful in improving the lives of our seniors.

On Sunday, let us celebrate a happy 30th birthday to Medicare and pledge to our seniors our support in protecting this successful program.

## STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago Sunday, President Johnson signed Medicare into law. There are 37 million

Americans who depend upon Medicare, including my own mom and my in-laws.

According to a recent report by the Medicare trustees, the Medicare trust fund starts going bankrupt in 1996. The new congressional majority is committed to preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare. We need to take the best ideas from the private sector because they do a much better job at health care than the government-run system.

We should also explore other options like medical savings accounts. We need to root out the fraud and the abuse that cheats the beneficiaries out of their money. It drains the reserves of the Medicare trust fund.

Finally, we need to keep partisan politics out of the discussion of Medicare. We need to put aside our differences and all of us work together to provide the strengthening of Medicare.

## STRENGTHEN MEDICARE, DO NOT GUT IT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in defending their indefensible cuts to Medicare, my Republican colleagues say we are increasing spending on Medicare. Only in Washington, DC can a cut be called an increase. This argument ignores the real-world implications of their so-called increases.

I challenge my colleagues to talk to real seniors who are struggling financially. They, not us, are the real experts on Medicare.

Ask them whether paying \$1,000 more a year for health care is, A, an increase, or, B, a cut. Ask them if being forced into HMO's, which will limit their choice of doctors, is, A, an increase, or, B, a cut.

They will answer that they are having to pay more for less. They may have to compromise food and shelter to pay more for health care. We must hold firm on Medicare. We must strengthen it, not gut it. Medicare is the real contract with the people of America.

## SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, good Lord, the spin control is going so crazy here, I think I am going to fall down. I mean, I cannot stand up much more with this.

We hear somebody saying as a freshman I was perplexed that the Republicans had disdain for Medicare. I am a freshman, and I am perplexed that a report comes out 2 months ago saying Medicare is going bankrupt and the Democrats are not going to do anything about it.

That is perplexing to me. Then we talked about Washington speak, and we have got the Democrats saying that a